

Congleton Rural District Council.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1938.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the District, for the year 1938.

Medical Officer of Health JOHN D. WALKER, M.B., Ch.B.

Sanitary Inspector R. C. FORD, M.S.I.A.

Vital Statistics

Area in acres	38,704
Registrar General's estimate of Resident Population	11,720
Number of Inhabited Houses Estimated	3,260
Rateable Value	£47,556
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£188

	Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births {	Legitimate ... 153 ...	73 ...	80 ...	Birth rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population
	Illegitimate ... 8 ...	4 ...	4 ...	
Stillbirths	12 ...	9 ...	3 ...	Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births
Deaths	140 ...	73 ...	67 ...	Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:—	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births
No. 29, Puerperal Sepsis	0	Nil
No. 30, Other Puerperal Causes	0	Nil
Totals	0	Nil

Death rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	55.9
Legitimate per 1,000 legitimate live births	55.9
Illegitimate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
„ „ Whooping Cough	Nil
„ „ Diarrhoea (under two years of age)08
„ „ Cancer (all ages)	1.62

Area.—The District is chiefly Agricultural, but there are also other industries in this and neighbouring districts: Salt, Engineering, Motor Body Building, Wire Manufacture, Mining and Silk Mills.

Laboratory Facilities.—Pathological specimens are examined at the expense of the Council, at the Public Health Laboratory, York Place, Manchester.

Tuberculosis specimens are examined at the County Council's Laboratory at Chester.

Ambulance Facilities.—These appear to be adequate. The Sandbach Motor Ambulance carries non-infectious cases and accidents, attending promptly when a call is made for it.

The West Heath Sanatorium possesses an Ambulance for Infectious Cases, while a Horse-drawn vehicle is kept at the Small-pox Hospital especially for any case of Small-pox that should arise.

Home Nursing.—The area is well served by the various District Nurses, who are found to be very popular and keen on their work.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.—Only one Centre is situated in the District, that for Child Welfare at Mow Cop.

The Sandbach Child Welfare Centre is widely utilised and does excellent work for the District.

Orthopaedic Centres at Crewe and Congleton and an Anti-Natal Centre at Congleton are available.

Tuberculosis Clinics at Crewe and Congleton and Clinics for Venereal Disease at Stoke-on-Trent and Manchester.

Hospitals.—The Manchester Royal Infirmary and the North Staffordshire Royal Infirmary admit cases from the area.

A large portion of the area is also served by the Albert Infirmary, Winsford.

Cases are also sometimes taken to the Congleton and Crewe Memorial Hospitals.

Maternity cases are admitted to St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester, the Longton Hospital and the Crewe Borough Maternity Home.

There is also a ward at the Arclid Infirmary for Maternity Cases.

Nursing Homes.—The Sandbach Nursing Home receives Medical, Surgical and Maternity Cases.

Infectious Diseases Hospitals.—For Infectious Diseases, the Joint Sanatorium at West Heath is available for cases in the area. Cases of Erysipelas and Pneumonia are admitted. No provision is made for severe cases of Whooping Cough which occasionally require Hospital Treatment.

Clothing and Bedding are disinfected at the Hospital.

Puerperal Fever cases are admitted to Crewe Isolation Hospital.

The Joint Small-pox Hospital at Arclid has not been used during the year but has been inspected and found to be in excellent order and ready at any time to take in a case.

There are 5 Male and 5 Female Beds, in addition to accommodation for Nurses.

SECTION "C." SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

(1) **Water.**—It has not been found necessary to make any mains extensions during the past year and the position is as reported previously, viz., that there is an adequate supply of excellent Mains Water in nineteen out of twenty of the Parishes of which the district is composed.

There has been no great increase in the consumption of Water, as there was last year, and the Rest and Pumping Levels in the Boreholes, though slightly lower are still satisfactory.

The Base Exchange Softening Plant is working well, and this is the only treatment to which the Water is subjected.

A recent analysis of the softened water gives the following results:—

Analytical Returns (Parts per 100,000)

Total Saline Matter in Solution ...	28.8	Combined Chlorine ...	2.0
Non-volatile (mineral) solids ...	23.5	Toxic Metals ...	Nil
Loss on Ignition (organic and volatile matter) ...	5.3	Ammoniacal Nitrogen ...	Nil
Matters in Suspension ...	Nil	Albuminoid Nitrogen ...	0.0005
Total Hardness ...	9.0	Nitrous Nitrogen (nitrites) ...	Nil
Temporary Hardness ...	9.0	Nitric Nitrogen (nitrates) ...	0.06
Permanent Hardness ...	—	Oxygen absorbed in 3 hours at 26.7°C. ...	Nil

Bacteriological Examination.—Number of Organisms developing on:—Agar-agar Media at 37°C. B.Coli (presumptive test):—Absent in 1.0, 10.0 and 20.0 cu., cm.

Opinion.—A potable water of an exceptionally high degree of organic purity and of sound bacteriological condition as determined by results of the supplementary bacteriological test. Attention may be drawn to the fact that this supply contains 16.1 parts per 100,000 or 11½ grains per gallons of bicarbonate of soda.

(ii) **Drainage and Sewerage.**—The Sewage Disposal Works at Scholar Green, Holmes Chapel, Twemlow, Malkins Bank and Lawton are each working well, and satisfactory effluents are being maintained. There have been no extensions to sewers in the past year.

A report and scheme for the drainage of the village of Goostrey has been prepared by our Consulting Engineers and negotiations with the County Council and pending, re grant.

A Joint Sewage Scheme for Astbury and the locality adjoining is being prepared for the Congleton Corporation and this Authority.

Part of the remainder of the Odd Rode Sewage scheme (i.e., Fir Close and Mount Pleasant Areas) has been submitted to the Ministry of Health for approval.

(2) Rivers and Streams.—Though there is some pollution in the River Wheelock, the waterways and streams—throughout the District—show a continued improvement, consequent on the provision of more efficient means of Sewage Disposal and an increased number of premises connected to the new sewers.

(3) (i) Closet Accommodation.—Since the new Disposal Works at Holmes Chapel was opened in 1936, approximately 140 houses have had their closets converted to the water carriage system and approximately 20 remain to be converted.

Similarly since the installation of a Disposal Works and Sewers for Odd Rode in 1937, approximately 150 houses in the Scholar Green locality have had their closets converted and approximately 175 remain to be converted.

The whole of the Fir Close locality approximately 130 Houses and the whole of the Mount Pleasant locality, approximately 175 houses remain to be converted, a work which will commence when sewers are extended to them.

When the Disposal Scheme for Goostrey, mentioned above, is installed, opportunity for conversion of closets at approximately 60 houses will be afforded.

(ii) Public Cleansing.—The Council undertake removal of Nightsoil and Ashes in the following localities:—Betchton, Church Hulme, Church Lawton, Fir Close, Mount Pleasant, Scholar Green, Rode Heath, Thurlwood and Goostrey.

The work is carried out by Contract. The contractors carry out their duties satisfactorily and very few complaints of neglect are received.

(iii) Sanitary Inspection of the Area.—All parts of the District are regularly visited, such matters as require attention are noted and procedure is usually by informal action.

The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year:—

Total Number of Inspections of:—

Houses	570	Water Meters	1756
Reinspections	2102	Infectious Disease	71
Complaints	61	New Buildings during Erection ...	291
Slaughter Houses	246	Interviews	224
Food Premises	27	Attendance at Council Meetings ...	13
Cowsheds and Dairies	322	Public Health Committee	12
Bakehouses	30	Housing Committee	12
Factories	17	Town Planning Committee	7
Workshops	42	Other Committees	4
Canal Boats	14	Police Court	6
Fire Brigade Equipment	3	County Court	1
Petroleum Stores	26	Air Raid Precautions Committee ...	3
Sewers and Disposal Works	274	Ministry of Health Inquiry	2
Water Works and Mains	145		

Defects Remedied, Etc. :—

Houses connected to Sewer	64	Walls Replastered	218
Drains Repairs or Altered	86	Ceilings Repaired	49
Drains Unchoked	2	Stairs Repaired	31
Drains Tested	86	Doors Repaired	43
Privies and Pail Closets Abolished ...	70	Exterior Walls Repaired	63
,, ,, ,, ,, Altered to W.C. ...	70	New Ash Bins	474
Closets Repaired or Rebuilt	43	Gutters and Down Spouts Repaired ...	25
New Slopstones	16	Septic Tanks Repaired	2
New Lavatory Basins	1	Water Laid on from Main	102
New Waste Pipes	21	Water Main Repairs	16
Yards Paved or Repaired	93	Water Meters Fixed	35
Larders New or Repaired	17	New Baths	4
New Bedrooms	1	Cowsheds New	1
Grates or Fireplaces Repaired ...	30	Cowsheds Remodelled	7
Chimneys Repaired	28	Dairies New	2
Wash Houses Repaired	12	Dairies Altered	11
Coppers Repaired	18	Water Bowls Installed	12
Windows Altered or Repaired ...	95	New or Additional Windows	50
Roofs Repaired	35	Rooms Disinfected	77
Floors Repaired	72	Schools Disinfected	2

(iv) **Shops and Offices.**—These have been inspected and informal action has been taken where necessary. There have been no cases which necessitated formal action.

(v) **Camping Sites.**—There are no Camping Sites within the Congleton Rural District.

(vi) **Smoke Abatement.**—During the year 1938 there have been no complaints of Smoke nuisance in the area, therefore action in this respect has not been found necessary.

(vii) **Swimming Baths and Pools.**—There are no Public Swimming Baths or Pools within the area, but there is a privately owned Bath at the Saltersford School, Holmes Chapel. This is open to the public at stated times. The water is kept in a fit state by the process of chlorination.

(viii) **Eradication of Bed Bugs.**—No action has been necessary in connection with this detail of Sanitary Inspection.

(4) **Schools.**—A report on the Sanitary condition and Water Supply at the Schools in the District is in course of preparation and will be presented as soon as it has been completed.

SECTION “D” HOUSING.

1. Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year :—

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 570 |
| (b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose | 2102 |

2. (a) Number of Dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 & 1932 65

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	82
3. Number of Dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	18
4. Number of Dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	28
5. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices:—	
Number of Defective Dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	51
6. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—	
(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936:—	
(1) Number of Dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2) Number of houses which were rendered fit after the service of formal notices:—	
(a) By Owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—	
(1) Number of Dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	505
(2) Number of Dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By Owners	433
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	47
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1) Number of Dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	1
(2) Number of Dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	4
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil
7. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding:—	
(a) (1) Number of Dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	41
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	41
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	264

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year...	5
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ...	2
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	11
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwellinghouses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ...	Nil
(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report ...	Nil

SECTION "E" INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) **Milk Supply.**—There are now 445 milk producers on the Register, of these 234 are "Accredited."

During the year some 332 inspections of farm premises have been carried out; this is additional to those inspections made in connection with the issue of licences and for the purpose of examination of cattle.

Remodelling of premises to bring them into conformity with the requirements of the Milk and Dairies Order continues, and during the past year 7 Cowsheds were put in order, 1 new shippon constructed, 11 dairies altered and 1 new dairy built.

(b) **Milk and Other Foods.**—There are now 8 private slaughterhouses in the District. Of these 3 are licenced and 5 registered. During the year 246 visits were made and, as far as possible, at times when slaughtering was expected to be in progress. The premises generally, whilst not all in the best situation, are kept in good order and well managed. No complaints have been received.

As to premises where meat is retailed, 27 inspections were made during the year.

Total weight of meat condemned as unfit for human consumption is 4 tons 6 cwt. 1 qr. 6 lbs.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.
Number Killed	260	416	1820	1300	1560
Number Inspected	200	150	500	400	1200
All diseases except Tuberculosis—					
Whole Carcases condemned	—	1	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	12	—
Percentage of the Number Inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ...	—	.66	—	3.0	—
Tuberculosis Only					
Whole Carcases condemned	—	3	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	16	—	—	12
Percentage of the Number Inspected affected with Tuberculosis	—	12.66	—	—	1

The above figures are approximate, no record having been kept of the exact number of animals slaughtered during the year.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

104 cases were notified during the year as against 83 in 1937. The average for the last 10 years is 92.9.

There has not been any severe outbreak of illness during the year, although there has been an increase in the number of cases of Diphtheria, there has not been an epidemic.

There is also an increase in the number of cases of Tuberculosis on our books, but this is accounted for by the fact that we have had more transfers from other districts.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR, 1938.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	31	29	1
Diphtheria	29	29	1
Pneumonia	12	Nil	Nil
Erysipelas	7	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	Nil	Nil
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	Nil	Nil
Anterior Poliomyelitis	1	Nil	Nil

TUBERCULOSIS.—NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1938.

Age Periods.	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
UP to 1 year ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 5 years ...	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
5 „ 10 years ...	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
10 „ 15 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 „ 20 years ...	1	2	—	1	1	—	—	—
20 „ 25 years ...	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—
25 „ 30 years ...	1	2	—	—	2	—	—	—
30 „ 35 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 „ 45 years ...	3	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
45 „ 55 years ...	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
55 years and upwards ...	1	—	—	—	1	2	—	—
Totals ...	8	6	6	2	5	3	1	—

I would like to express my thanks to the Clerk, Mr. Cross, and to the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Ford, for their readiness to give advice and assistance at any time.

(Signed) **JOHN D. WALKER,**
Medical Officer of Health.

1939.